

Station to Station walk

LOCAL
STORIES
AT
THE
AMERSHAM
MUSEUM

WALK 1

A 4 mile country walk from Little Chalfont to Amersham

Points of interest

A Chalfont & Latimer station opened in 1892 as part of a 16 mile stretch of the Metropolitan Line to Aylesbury. The station was originally called Chalfont Road. There was very little development around the new stations; it was mostly farmland, with a few houses and pubs. Nearby land was soon sold off, resulting in the development of shops and houses in the early 20th century. The new towns of Little Chalfont and Amersham-on-the-Hill were born.

B Little Chalfont Nature Park was created by local residents from original, preserved natural grassland and woodland. The park features a rare wildflower meadow, woodland and remnants of the park's previous lives, including a cherry orchard, clay pits for brickmaking and a farm. Opened in 2016, there are marked paths, a picnic area, information boards and places for children to play. (Dogs cannot be walked here.)

C At the end of this private road is Snells Farm and Beel House. Beel House is an 18th century, Grade II listed building, but earlier parts within the house date it as the oldest building in Little Chalfont. The name 'Beel' possibly derives from the name of a former resident or is a corruption of 'Bell' from the nearby 'Bell Lane'. Three generations of the Mason family lived at Beel House from the 1760s. Much of their wealth came from trading in African people and slave plantations in the Caribbean. Amersham in Montserrat, was named after the plantation established by Kender Mason. Later well-known occupants of the house include Dirk Bogarde, Ozzy Osbourne and Robert Kilroy-Silk.



Nature Park



Beel House

Amersham Museum Walks

This guide is one of several self-led walks created by Amersham Museum in 2021.

Go to www.amershammuseum.org to find more.

The museum offers a programme of themed, guided walks. Topics include Tudor Amersham, the early development and later expansion of old Amersham, Arts & Crafts architecture, Modernism and drovers routes. Go to <https://amershammuseum.org/events/guided-walks/> for details of dates and how to book.

Amersham Museum

Amersham Museum is an award-winning accredited museum, sharing the stories of local people and places. The museum is housed in part of a Grade II listed medieval hall house in the heart of Amersham, a historic market town. The museum has a beautiful physic garden, next to the River Misbourne.



The museum runs a wide range of activities for people of all ages, including reminiscence groups, singing, art and literature workshops and an accredited art club for children. It is brilliantly supported by a team of 125 volunteers and a Friends group.

www.amershammuseum.org

D On this stretch of the walk you will pass three farms: Snells, Cokes and Bendrose. When the railway arrived in 1892 there were at least seven farms in the area around the station. Most sold their land for development, leaving just the farmhouses, which remain today. To find out more about the farms go to: <https://amershammuseum.org/history/little-chalfont/farms/>

E On your right is an industrial complex owned by GE Healthcare. In 1940 Chilcote House, on this site, was established as a base for producing luminous dials and gunsights for ships and aircraft. Named The Radiochemical Centre in 1949, the company expanded production to a broad range of medical and industrial uses. The company was acquired by General Electric in 2004.

F As you walk through the fields you will see wonderful views of the Misbourne Valley to your left. The River Misbourne is a chalk stream that runs for 17 miles from Great Missenden through Amersham and the Chalfonts, before joining the River Colne beyond Denham. Chalk steams are internationally rare

wildlife habitats and home to water voles, mayflies and wild brown trout.

Station to Station walk

This 4 mile walk starts from Chalfont & Latimer station and finishes at Amersham station.



Trains: Amersham and Chalfont & Latimer Stations are served by the Metropolitan Line from Aldgate and Baker Street and the Chiltern Line from Marylebone to Aylesbury.

Buses: Go to traveline.info

Maps:

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 172 and Chiltern Society Maps 6 and 17.



View of Shardeloes

Photographs in this leaflet were mainly provided by Linda Gould

Leaflet produced by the Amersham Museum and supported by:



Amersham Museum Charity number 288865 Company number 1790935

G Stanley Hill Cemetery is one of three cemeteries in Amersham parish. This cemetery contains many Polish graves; the families of Polish servicemen lived in nearby Hodgemoor Woods after WWII and some were subsequently given homes and settled in the local area.

H High & Over is considered the first International Modernist house in Britain. It was built in 1929 by the architect Amyas D Connell for Bernard Ashmole, Professor of Classical Archaeology at London University. As you walk down the road you will see the modernist Sun Houses, also designed by Connell, to help finance the construction of the main house.

I Following the arrival of the railway, a new road, Station Road, was laid out to link the station to Amersham Old Town. It provided a gentler ascent than the existing Rectory Hill, enabling horsedrawn coaches to transport goods and passengers to and from the station.

J The Martyrs Memorial remembers the six men and one woman who were burned to death for being Lollards in the early 16th century. Their main demand was to be able to read the Bible in English.



Martyrs Memorial

K From this point you can see old Amersham, including the tower of St Mary's Church and the octagonal lantern of the King's Chapel (formerly a Baptist chapel). The road stretching up across the other side of the valley is Gore Hill, leading to the village of Coleshill, with its water tower (now a private home). Ahead of you is Shardeloes House, the former home of the town's Lord of the Manor, the Tyrwhitt Drakes. In WWII the house was requisitioned as a maternity hospital; between 1939 and 1948 over 5,000 babies were born there.

Station to Station walk

A country walk of approximately 4 miles from Little Chalfont to Amersham

Start

Leave Chalfont & Latimer Station from the Aylesbury/Chesham platform and walk along to the main road. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn right past the shops.

1 Take the second left at the end of the shops into Cokes Lane. Cross into the driveway to Challoners High School and walk for about 100m. Enter Little Chalfont Nature Park on your left. Explore the site and then return to Cokes Lane. (No dogs allowed within the Nature Park).

2 Turn right to pass Snells Lane, keeping right at the junction with Nightingales Lane. After Cokes Farm turn right opposite Doggetts Wood Lane and walk along Cokes Farm Lane. Follow the path along field boundaries.



Nature Park



Willow Wood



Stanley Hill Cemetery

4 Enter Stanley Hill Cemetery and follow the right-hand path through the cemetery. You will see Polish gravestones and the Polish Soldiers War Memorial (three high granite stones). Exit via the driveway off the main road (A404).

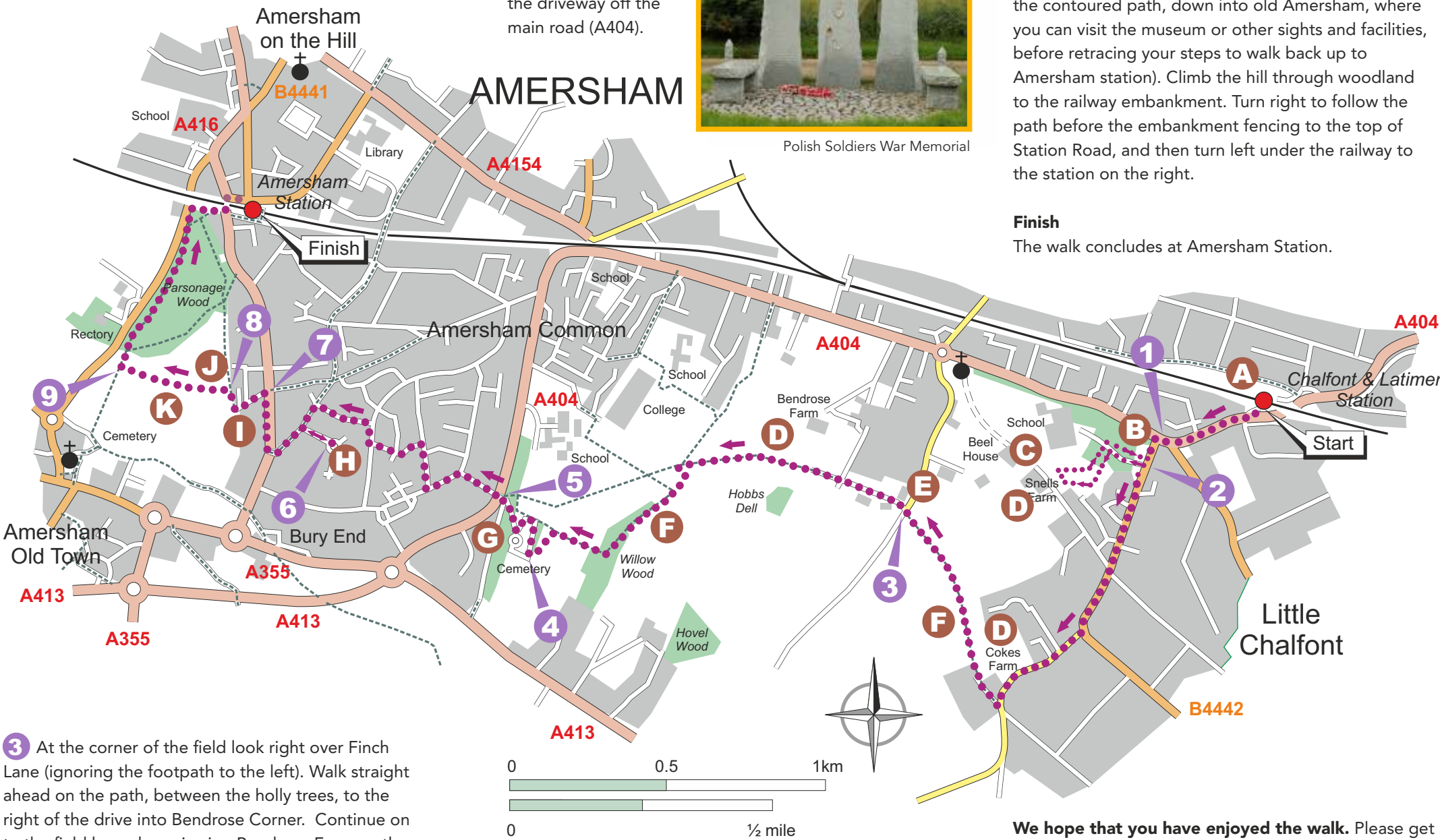


Polish Soldiers War Memorial

8 Follow the path along the contour across this field, curling right to enjoy wonderful views of old Amersham.

9 Follow the contoured path until a right turn into Parsonage Wood. (There is an optional detour left off the contoured path, down into old Amersham, where you can visit the museum or other sights and facilities, before retracing your steps to walk back up to Amersham station). Climb the hill through woodland to the railway embankment. Turn right to follow the path before the embankment fencing to the top of Station Road, and then turn left under the railway to the station on the right.

Finish
The walk concludes at Amersham Station.



3 At the corner of the field look right over Finch Lane (ignoring the footpath to the left). Walk straight ahead on the path, between the holly trees, to the right of the drive into Bendrose Corner. Continue on to the field boundary, viewing Bendrose Farm on the right in the distance beyond the field. After the fourth gate keep to the path that crosses the field diagonally, to the far corner and through double gates. Keep to the left hedge line towards Willow Wood, passing Amersham School sports facilities on the right. Enter the wood and keep to the right-hand path. Take the exit after the field boundary on the right, to open land. You will see a display board, bug hotels and new planting of the 2012 Jubilee Wood Extension. Walk up the slope keeping the hedge on the right. Walk through a gap in the top corner, and look left.



Willow Wood display board

5 Cross the main road to the path sign on the opposite side of the road. Walk up the path to the road, turn left and cross into Sheepfold Lane. Turn into the path on the left after 12 houses and climb to Pomeroy Close. Follow straight on to the next road. Turn right and then first left into Highmoor. Take the left turn of the path crossing the road, going downhill to Highover Park. Turn left to view High & Over house on your right.

6 Return down Highover Park to Station Road, passing the Sun houses on your left. Turn uphill after crossing Station Road, counting 13 houses on your left, until you see the path sign.

7 Turn left up the path between houses to where the 1931 Martyrs Memorial is located, on the right in the corner of the field.

We hope that you have enjoyed the walk. Please get in touch with any feedback or for further information: info@amershammuseum.org

Points of interest (details on reverse side)

- A** Chalfont & Latimer station
- B** Little Chalfont Nature Park
- C** Beel House
- D** Snells, Cokes and Bendrose Farms
- E** Site of Radiochemical Centre
- F** Views of the Misbourne Valley
- G** Stanley Hill Cemetery
- H** High & Over
- I** Station Road
- J** The Martyrs Memorial
- K** View of Amersham old town